

Volume II

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE PROJECT

Cultural Resources Survey

**Braxton and Webster Counties,
West Virginia**

APPENDIX G

PHASE II WORK PLANS

Phase II Work Plan – Site 46WB440 (Temp Site #WV-WB-3101)

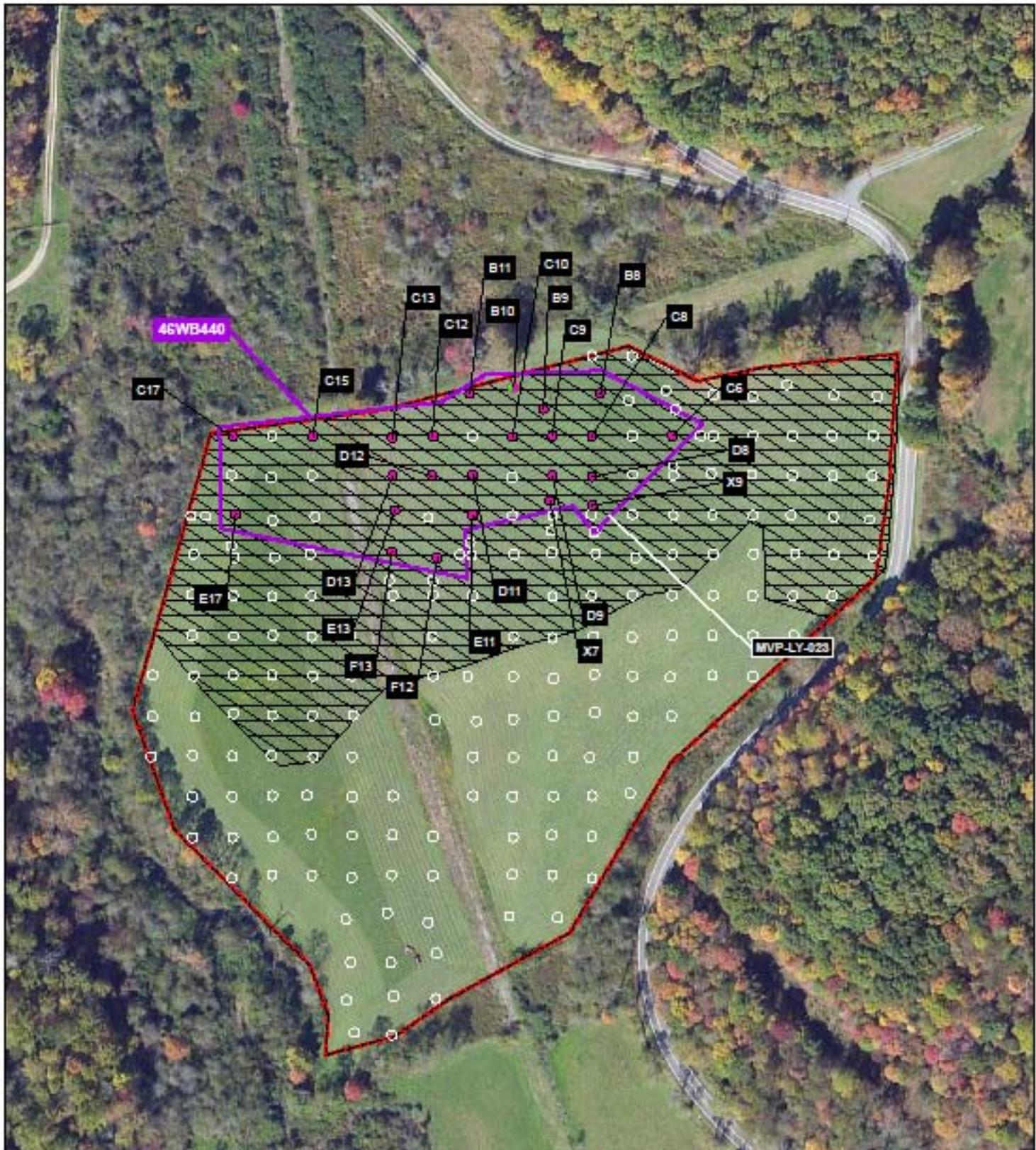
Site 46WB440 (Temp Site #WV-WB-3101) is a lithic scatter located within the direct APE of Ancillary Site MVP-LY-023. The general area is characterized by a relatively level terrace within a floodplain which is bisected by an abandon railroad grade (WV-WB-0408). The site is located approximately 1.1 kilometer (0.7 miles) northwest of the intersection of WV-20N and CR 11 (Figure G-1). It is at an elevation of 637.9 meters (2,093 feet) amsl and occupies pasture land on a floodplain terrace approximately 100 meters (328 feet) east of Strouds Creek. The confluence of Strouds Creek and Grassy Run lies approximately 750 meters (2,460.6 feet) to the southwest. The Strouds Creek valley is bound to the north, west, and east by rugged shale and sandstone hills. Strouds Creek is a tributary to Gauley River, located approximately 1,150 meters (3,772.9 feet) to the southeast. Pedestrian reconnaissance and the excavation of 24 positive STPs defined a site size of 0.9 hectares (2.2 acres). The site is confined to a slight knoll in the north-central portion of the pasture. Twenty-one (21) of the positive STPs fell on the eastern side the railroad grade, and all positive STPs were north of the poorly drained low-lying areas. Poorly drained areas are readily identified by pooled water on the surface and a transition from fine hay grasses to more robust wetland grasses.

Forty-nine (49) artifacts were recovered from 24 STPs at Site 46WB440, all of them chert except for one (1) glass fragment (Figure G-2). Two (2) STPs in the central portion of the site yielded nine (9) and four (4) tertiary flakes, respectively, while the northern portion of the site yielded a total of 33 tertiary flakes as well as the proximal end of a projectile point. The association of tertiary debitage with bifacially worked tools suggests that the area was utilized for tool maintenance and repair. All artifacts were recovered from the Ap horizon in the northern portion of the survey area.

Site 46WB440 represents a scatter of prehistoric lithics that has a variable density. A single, relatively high density locus was identified near the center of the site and a second, moderate density locus was identified approximately 30 meters (98.2 feet) to the northwest. These loci are separated by a historic railroad grade. Despite the disturbance created by the railroad grade and historic plowing, distinct areas of relatively high artifact density suggest that the site retains horizontal integrity. Although the overall density of prehistoric artifacts at Site 46WB440 is relatively low, it is possible that this is a habitation site. The integrity of the near surface deposits, potential for deeply buried deposits, and site location near a major confluence suggested there is a potential for intact buried cultural features. The historic component, evidenced by a single artifact, does not contribute to site significance. Based on the results of the initial Phase I survey, the following series of tasks have been developed to complete the Phase II significance evaluation.

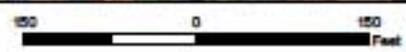
Task 1—Surface Collection

Controlled intensive surface collection will be conducted at 46WB440 to identify high density Native American artifact scatters; historic artifacts will not be considered because the historic component is not significant. The site will be plowed and initial surface survey will piece plot and collect all diagnostic Native American artifacts. The plowed area will then be disked, and



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NAD 1983 UTM 17N



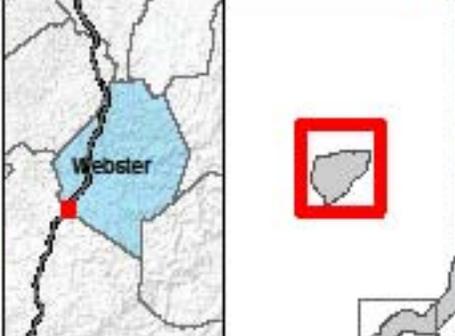
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Figure G-2:
Site 46WB440 and Tested Locations

Webster County

NOVEMBER 2016

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Proposed Compressor Station Location | October 2016 Proposed Route |
| Architectural/Historical Resources | Isolated Find |
| Milepost | Archaeological Site |
| Positive STP - Historic | Direct APE |
| Positive STP - Prehistoric | Pedestrian Survey |
| Positive STP - Both | Area To Be Surveyed |
| Negative STP | Limits of Disturbance |
| | Previously Surveyed in Volume II |
| | Indirect APE |



the site area will be gridded into 5-x-5-meter squares. Each 5-x-5-meter square will be intensively surface collected by two archaeologists until all Native American artifacts are identified and collected. Each collection will be provenienced by the grid coordinates of the 5-x-5-meter square in which it is found. The data collected in this task will produce a heat map of artifact distribution, based on total artifact counts per 5-x-5-meter square, which will inform the next step of research, Task 2. The controlled surface collection grid will be established using a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy.

Task 2—Additional Shovel Test Pits

Up to an additional 20 STPs will be excavated, with each STP targeting a high-artifact-density location identified through intensive surface collection. Each STP will measure 50-x-50 centimeters (19.7-x-19.7 inches) and will be excavated to a maximum depth of 100 centimeters (39 inches). The site is located in a riverine environment and deep tests are necessary to ensure that buried deposits are not missed. Excavated soils will be sifted through 0.64-centimeter (0.25-inch) hardware cloth. Where feasible, STPs will be excavated by stratigraphic level. A description of each STP will be recorded in the field to include its location within the sampling grid and information pertaining to the local terrain along with soil color, texture, composition, and thickness, and the presence or absence of cultural materials. The location of each STP will be recorded with a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy and digitized for Project mapping. STPs will be backfilled after excavation and recordation.

Task 3—Test Unit Excavation

A maximum of three TUs will be excavated to define the stratigraphic context and vertical limits of the site, to identify cultural features and activity areas within high-artifact-density locations identified through intensive surface collection, and to investigate landform geomorphology. TUs will measure 1.0-x-1.0 meters (3.2-x-3.2 feet) and will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) below surface. Each TU will be excavated in arbitrary 10.0 centimeters (3.9 inches) levels and screened through 0.64-centimeter (0.25-inch) hardware cloth. At least two walls (one east-west and one north-south) of each TU will be photographed and mapped in profile. Recovered artifacts will be collected separately by TU and excavation level. Artifacts less than 50 years old may be noted in the field records and discarded. A description of each TU will be recorded in the field to include information about the color, texture, composition, and thickness of soil strata, and the presence or absence of cultural materials or features. If encountered, features will be photographed and mapped in plan and profile view. Features will be excavated by strata or, if un-stratified, arbitrary 5.0-centimeter levels. Soil samples from feature contexts will be collected for laboratory analysis. Sample sizes will be the lesser of one-half of the feature or three (3) liters. Three (3) liter Constant Volume Samples (CVS) from non-feature contexts will be collected. The location of each TU will be recorded with a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy and digitized for Project mapping. TUs will be backfilled after excavation and recordation. Six (6) percent of the prehistoric component at the site will have been hand-excavated at the conclusion of the Phase I survey and Phase II evaluation.

Task 4—Mechanical Stripping

A total of up to 150 square meters (in either multiple blocks, i.e., 5-x-5 meter trench or multiple long trenches, i.e., 3-x-30 meter trench) of the site area will be stripped to expose additional potential features within high-artifact-density locations identified through intensive surface collection. Stripping will be accomplished by mechanical means and will expose the base of the plow zone. Location(s) for stripping will be identified on the basis of high-artifact-density locations identified through intensive surface collection. Stripping will be monitored to ensure that the depth remains consistent with exposing undisturbed strata and to identify possible features as they are exposed and will be followed by hand shovel-shaving to further expose and define features. Each feature will be photographed and mapped in plan view, and its location will be recorded with a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy and digitized for Project mapping. A representative sample of features will be excavated by strata or, if un-stratified, arbitrary 5.0-centimeter levels. Soil samples from feature contexts will be collected for laboratory analysis. Sample sizes will be the lesser of one-half of the feature or three (3) liters. For each excavated feature, three (3) liter CVS from adjacent non-feature contexts will also be collected. Stripped soils will be redistributed into stripped areas and leveled after excavation and recordation.

Up to 150 square meters (1.6 percent of the site impacted area) will have been hand-excavated or stripped at the conclusion of the Phase I survey and Phase II evaluation.

Task 5—Deep Testing

Because the site is located on a riverine terrace, deep testing will be conducted at 46WB440 to determine the presence, absence, and nature of buried archaeological deposits. Deep testing will utilize a maximum of three (3) backhoe trenches, exposed 50-x-50 centimeter STPs, and 1-x-1 meter TUs. The deep trenches are placed in consultation with the geomorphologist in the field. The backhoe trench(es) will be excavated until Pleistocene or channel lag deposits are reached, if possible. The trench(es) will be excavated so that soil strata may be examined, profiled, recorded, photographed, and sampled safely and in compliance with OSHA standards. If carbon samples are noted in the exposed profile, they will be provenienced by depth and collected for subsequent analysis.

The location of the backhoe trench(es) will be recorded with a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy and digitized for Project mapping. Photographs of profiles will be taken with a photo board and vertical scale, and the ground surface of the trench(es) will be clearly visible in the photograph. Representative photographs and soil profiles, as well as detailed illustrations and descriptions of soil strata and composition, will be produced. A professional geomorphologist will be present in the field during deep testing to conduct sampling and recordation in preparation for detailed geomorphological analysis.

Task 6—Laboratory Analysis

Artifacts will be analyzed to infer aspects of site age, cultural affiliation, and function. The artifacts will be inventoried, cleaned, labeled and packaged for curation in accordance with current standards established by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH). Feature fill and CVS samples will be floated and processed in order to identify small scale cultural and environmental remains. The non-feature CVS samples will provide a baseline through which the feature fill can be interpreted. A maximum of 10 radiocarbon samples will be dated through conventional radiometric and/or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) techniques.

Task 7—Report

The results of the Phase II investigation will be documented in a written report following guidelines outlined in the WVDCH's *Guidelines for Phase I, II, and III Archaeological Investigations and Technical Report Preparation*. The report will describe the background research, fieldwork, and analysis conducted for the survey, and the report will include appropriate supporting maps, photographs, drawings, and/or tables. The report will include a recommendation as to site eligibility for listing in the NRHP. To assess the significance and integrity of 46WB440 under the NRHP criteria for evaluation, it will be necessary to determine the extent to which the site can contribute significant new information to research issues relevant to the prehistory of the region. Research issues include, but are not limited to:

Geomorphology and Site Formation Processes

Two (2) complete and detailed profiles of deep trench(es) and/or TUs will be included in the technical report, including the depth, length, and width of the trench. Additionally, representative photographs and soil profiles from trenches excavated for deep testing, as well as detailed illustrations and descriptions of soil strata and composition, will be provided. Also for inclusion in the report, a professional geomorphologist will develop a geomorphological history and define site formation processes within the site area based on the results of deep testing.

Chronology

The site setting on a stream terrace suggests that stratified deposits in sealed contexts are likely. Radiocarbon samples in conjunction with diagnostic artifacts and stratified deposits may help develop an occupational history of the site and provide a baseline through which changing subsistence, settlement, technology, and resource procurement patterns can be viewed, and allow the site to be placed within local and regional prehistoric chronologies.

Subsistence and Settlement Patterns

The recovery of charred botanical or preserved faunal remains from datable features may confirm if such activities occurred at the site and further elucidate subsistence strategies of the site's occupants. Analysis of tools related to food preparation, including blood residue analysis, may reveal other subsistence activities undertaken at the site. The site's location may reveal

patterns of resource exploitation in the Gauley River area. Food procurement activities represented at the site will be placed within the context of local and regional settlement systems and may help interpret prehistoric land use patterns.

Lithic Technology

The lithic assemblage at the site indicates that late stage reduction of lithic material or tool maintenance occurred at the site. Additional artifacts recovered during the Phase II excavation will allow for a more detailed understanding of lithic reduction, the role of curated versus expedient industries, raw material procurement strategies, and lithic toolkits. Temporal changes to these aspects of the lithic industry may also become evident with additional research.